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Villa Park  
REVIEW

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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

## Warriors earn their seventh straight win



Junior Ben Swanson of the Willowbrook baseball team is pictured while approaching home plate during Saturday's game against Glenbard West. Swanson slid safely into home to score on senior Jory Crocker's two-run single in the bottom of the fourth inning. Senior Jake Bonino crossed home plate moments before Swanson slid head-first into home plate. Willowbrook defeated the visiting Hilltoppers 13-2 in Saturday's five-inning game in Villa Park. The Warriors extended their winning streak to seven games and improved their overall season record to 8-4 with the victory. Willowbrook opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season by sweeping last week's three-game series against Leyden. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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### INSIDE:

Opinion .....4 Police reports ..... 8  
Speak out .....5 Sports .....12-13



# NHTSA reminder: Eyes forward — Don't drive distracted

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reminds us that distracted driving endangers everyone on the road, including other drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

According to the NHTSA, distracted driving claimed 3,208 lives and injured more than 315,000 people in the United States in 2024.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, applying makeup, talking to people in your vehicle, adjusting the radio or GPS—anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting, which includes messaging, is the most alarming distraction, because it combines visual, manual, and cognitive distraction.

Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds.

At 55 miles per hour, that's like driving the length

of an entire football field with your eyes closed. You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

The NHTSA urges drivers to adopt these phone-free driving habits to start creating a safe driving environment for everyone on the road:

- Pull over and park in a safe location before using the phone to send or read a text message.
- Ask a passenger to be the "designated texter" and allow them to manage calls and messages during the drive.
- Avoid social media scrolling and any form of messaging while behind the wheel.
- Use "Do Not Disturb" mode to silence notifications.
- Drivers can put their phone in the trunk, glove box or back seat of the vehicle to break the habit of driving distracted.

The fight to end distracted driving starts with you. Make the commitment to drive phone-free today. Protect lives by never texting or talking on the phone while driving.

Be a good passenger and speak out if you're in a vehicle with a distracted driver. Encourage your friends and family to drive phone-free.

The foundation of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's efforts on distracted driving and other risky driving behaviors is its partnership with the states and local police.

The states determine laws affecting distracted driving, but the NHTSA provides federal investments in the locally driven strategies that address the states' specific needs.

One of the highlights of this relationship comes during April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month, which pairs a national advertising campaign with a law enforcement crackdown called Put the Phone Away or Pay.

## Villa Park Fire Department offers Key Box Program

The Villa Park Fire Department's Key Box Program provides emergency responders with secure access to your home when you're unable to open the door. This program is especially helpful for residents who may require frequent medical assistance and are unable to easily answer the door.

By installing a key box, emergency personnel can enter your home quickly without forcing entry or causing damage. After providing assistance, responders will ensure your home is properly secured before leaving.

### How the program works

- A secure key box is installed at your residence
- Your house key is placed inside the locked box
- Only authorized emergency personnel can access the box
- Responders use the key to enter during an emergency
- Your home is relocked once assistance is complete

Key boxes are designed to be simple and secure. They can be placed over the top of a door, attached to a door handle, or permanently mounted near an entry point.

Residential key boxes are available for purchase at most hardware stores or through online retailers. Over-the-door, door handle, and mounted options are acceptable.

A limited number of free temporary key boxes are available for qualifying residents who meet certain criteria (individuals who live alone and have a history of medical conditions; residents recovering at home after a hospital stay; people using a medical alert pendant or home alert system). To learn more and request a free temporary key box, complete the application on the village's website at <https://www.invil-lapark.com/1154/Key-Box-Program>.

For more information, contact the Villa Park Fire Department at 630-833-5350 or email [keybox@invil-lapark.com](mailto:keybox@invil-lapark.com).

## Willowbrook's Bianca Neff honored with Outstanding Teacher Award



Willowbrook social studies teacher Bianca Neff (pictured) received the school's Outstanding Teacher Award last week. Two Willowbrook students—junior Emily Sain and freshman Leah Williams—presented Neff at an April 9 ceremony that also honored the school's Outstanding Student honorees for the fourth quarter of the current school year. To earn the award, a staff member must treat teaching as a passion, create a positive learning environment, use a variety of strategies to engage students, be willing to offer extra support, provide prompt and effective feedback to students, and relate to and understand students' viewpoints and perspectives. (Submitted photo)

## Willowbrook Music Boosters present annual Trivia Night event on April 25

Registration deadline is April 20

The Willowbrook High School Music Booster Club will present its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night on Saturday, April 25. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the high school, located at 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park. Check-in will start at 5 p.m.

Willowbrook students, parents/guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends are invited to participate. Players must be at least 13 years old, or currently in eighth grade.

Teams of eight to 10 players are recommended. The entry fee is \$100 per team. For teams with 11 to 15 people, the entry fee is \$150. Proceeds will support Willowbrook music programs and students. The registration and payment deadline is Monday, April 20.

The upcoming Trivia Night event at Willowbrook will feature raffles and prizes, including a prize for the team with the best theme. Teams are encouraged to be creative, decorate their table and dress in costume. Food and drinks are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

To register, and for full event details, visit <https://www.wbhsmusicboosters.org/trivia-night>.

## Villa Park to participate in Conservation Foundation's River Sweep this Saturday

The Conservation Foundation's annual River Sweep is a self-coordinated stream cleanup held each spring throughout DuPage County and parts of Will County along the DuPage River.

The purpose of the one-day event is to encourage volunteer groups to help "sweep our rivers clean" by picking up debris in and along local waterways. Over the past 30+ years, more than 16,000 volunteers have removed over 300 tons of garbage from the DuPage River and Salt Creek waterways.

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual River Sweep will take place from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, April 18. Villa Park will participate in the event. The staging area of Villa Park's effort will be the shelter at Rotary Park, 600 E. Wildwood Ave. Participants will clean-up along Salt Creek going north from Rotary Park along the Salt Creek Greenway.

For more information, call Villa Park coordinator Bob Wagner at 630-484-8856.

## Adopt A Soldier fundraiser to be held at VFW Post 2801 April 26

The sixth annual Adopt A Soldier fundraiser will take place from noon to 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, at Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801, 39 E. St. Charles Road, Villa Park.

The event will feature live music from multiple bands, raffles, a 50/50 split the pot, and

food for sale provided by Mission BBQ.

The upcoming fundraiser supports the shipment of care packages to active-duty service members while also raising awareness about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and its impact on those who serve our nation.

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Betty Jesensky Office Manager  
[bjesensky@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:bjesensky@orourkemediagroup.com)

Debra Hamilton Advertising Director  
[dhamilton@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:dhamilton@orourkemediagroup.com)

Brenda Garcia Account Executive  
[bgarcia@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:bgarcia@orourkemediagroup.com)

Chris Fox News Coordinator  
[cfox@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:cfox@orourkemediagroup.com)

Jim O'Rourke Publisher  
[jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com)

Chad Richardson VP News  
[chardrison@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:chardrison@orourkemediagroup.com)

Caleb Anderson COO  
[canderson@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:canderson@orourkemediagroup.com)

Joe Paul VP Digital  
[jpaul@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jpaul@orourkemediagroup.com)

Jade Lewandowski VP Sales  
[jewandowski@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jewandowski@orourkemediagroup.com)

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# Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

### April 7

Silvia Diaz, 59, of Villa Park, was charged with battery—making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature—in the 600 block of W. Merle at 6:05 p.m.

A complainant in the 500 block of S. Ardmore reported several items have gone missing from their home. The complainant believes the items have been stolen.

A complainant in the 1400 block of S. Monterey reported that they were the victim of a fraud.

### April 6

Ishmail A. Smith, 38, of Norfolk, Virginia, was charged with resisting or obstructing a police officer causing injury, DUI, speeding, improper lighting, transportation of possession of open alcohol by a driver and driving without insurance near Roosevelt and Butterfield at 3:44 a.m. Smith was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

### April 5

A 38-year-old Villa Park man was charged with domestic battery in the 400 block of S. Harvard at 8:46 p.m. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant in the 100 block of W. Park reported that a subject is harassing them via telephone.

A complainant at a restaurant in the 200 block of W. North reported at 3:09 a.m. that subjects were causing a disturbance. The subjects were issued trespass warnings.

### April 4

A 31-year-old Villa Park woman was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 1300 block of S. Villa at 3:15 a.m. She was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant at a store in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles reported at 4:32 p.m. that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and attempted to conceal them. The subject was issued a trespass warning.

A complainant in the 100 block of W. Roosevelt reported at 4:41 p.m. that another driver caused damage to the complainant's vehicle door with their own vehicle's door.

### April 2

Larry Olden, 59, of Maywood, was charged with burglary/retail theft at a store in the 100 block of W. Roosevelt at 2 p.m. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant in the 100 block of N. Ardmore reported at 7:22 a.m. that a subject was repeatedly ringing their doorbell after being told to leave, which alarmed and disturbed the complainant. The subject was issued a citation.

A complainant in the 400 block of W. Division reported at 11:53 p.m. that three subjects had surrounded their vehicle, were yelling, and attempted to open the door. The complainant reported they were alarmed and disturbed the subjects.

### April 1

A complainant at a business in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported they had left their cell phone in the bathroom, and when they returned it was gone.

A 31-year-old Villa Park woman and 33-year-old Addison man were each charged with two counts of domestic battery, while the 35-year-old Addison man also was charged with violation of pretrial release in the 100 block of N. Cornell at 11:40 p.m. Both subjects were transported to the DuPage County Jail.

# Glowiak Hilton seeks input through constituent survey

State Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton is providing residents a chance to share their opinions and concerns through an online, interactive survey.

"I want to hear from constituents to understand what matters most to them as I return to Springfield for the final weeks of legislative session," said Glowiak Hilton

(D-Western Springs). "I encourage residents to reach out to my office on any issue they are passionate about."

Glowiak Hilton's survey aims to provide a better understanding of what issues residents care about, including large-scale development projects, utility companies, data centers and more.

"My top priority is to address issues that benefit the people I represent," said Glowiak Hilton. "Through the survey, I can ensure your voice is heard."

Residents can complete the survey at SenatorSuzyGlowiak.com. People with concerns not covered in the survey can reach out to Glowiak Hilton's office at 630-785-3177.

# Willowbrook cast, crew receive All-State recognition



Willowbrook's team of 69 students competed in the recent IHSA Drama and Group Interpretation state meet at Reavis High School in Burbank. Willowbrook's cast and crew presented their contest play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, at the state meet, which ended on March 28. The Willowbrook team won the state championship in the drama category for its presentation of Oscar Wilde's play. Additionally, the team won state in Tech Performance (in the Large Set level). The students who earned All-State Cast honors at the meet included: Kasey Barnett, Konstantine Gzamouranis, Malachy Heneghan, Niamh Lashmet, Shem Rodrigues and Ashlyn Ruane. Cara Casey, Megan Hasler, Molly Hield and Vivian Zachar were named to the All-State Lighting Team. The top photo from the Willowbrook March 19 presentation in their school's auditorium shows (left to right) Heneghan, Lashmet, Rodrigues and Gzamouranis. The photo on the left from that presentation shows (left to right) Ruane and Barnett. (Photos by Chris Fox)

# Two involved in high-speed pursuit, illegal firearm in Oak Brook

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strockis announced last week that Judge Joshua Dieden granted the state's motion to detain pre-trial two Chicago men, one of whom is accused of leading police on a high-speed chase while his co-defendant was illegally in possession of a loaded gun.

Lorenzo Bell, 20, appeared in court on April 9, and was charged with two counts of aggravated unlawful possession of a weapon, one a Class 2 felony and the other a Class 4 felony. Bell's co-defendant, Jahiem Russell, 22, also appeared in court on April 9, and was charged with one count of unlawful possession of a stolen license plate (Class 2 felony) and two counts of aggravated fleeing and eluding (Class 4 felony).

On April 8, at approximately 3:50 p.m., an officer with the Oak Brook Police Department pulled behind a blue Nissan on Ring Road at Oakbrook Center near Harger Road.

It is alleged that once the officer was behind the Nissan, the vehicle immediately sped away at a high rate of speed and disobeyed a stop sign at Harger Road, at which time the officer activated his emergency lights and siren.

With the officer in pursuit, it is alleged that the vehicle, later determined to be driv-

en by Russell, ignored multiple stop signs and eventually made its way to eastbound 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, where he reached speeds of approximately 63 mph in a 40 mph zone during heavy traffic.

It is further alleged that Russell weaved in and out of traffic onto I-88 westbound to southbound Route 83 and back onto I-88 eastbound, where he reached speeds of approximately 86 miles per hour.

It is alleged that Russell continued weaving in and out of heavy traffic and traveled on the shoulder of the road to I-294 southbound. It is alleged that Russell continued on I-294 southbound to the westbound Ogden Avenue ramp, where he struck road barrels and then reversed into an Oak Brook squad car. It is further alleged that the Nissan became disabled, at which time Russell and Bell fled the vehicle on foot, only to be quickly apprehended by law enforcement officers.

When searching the Nissan, officers allegedly found a loaded Taurus 9mm handgun with one bullet in the chamber and 12 rounds in the magazine on the front passenger floorboard where Bell had been seated.

Following further investigation into the case, officers discovered that the license plate affixed to the Nissan had been reported as stolen on April 7.

"The allegations that Mr. Russell fled from police at a high rate of speed in the middle of the afternoon near the Oak Brook Mall while his co-defendant, Lorenzo Bell, a convicted felon currently on probation for unlawful possession of a weapon, was illegally in possession of a loaded gun, are beyond disturbing," Berlin said. "As the Oak Brook Mall gets busier with the warm weather, visitors will find the mall inviting, and I encourage everyone to enjoy the mall's restaurants, shops and other attractions. At the same time, I warn anyone who thinks of the Oak Brook Mall as an easy target that law enforcement in DuPage County, particularly in Oak Brook, is extremely well-trained and has absolutely zero tolerance for any type of behavior that threatens public safety."

The next court appearance for both men is scheduled for May 4 in front of Judge Mia McPherson.



Lorenzo Bell



Jahiem Russell

# Sports



Glenbard East's boys volleyball team took second place in its 16-team Springfest Invitational on Saturday. The Rams won their first four matches to advance to the championship contest against Glenbard West. Glenbard East won the opening game, but the Hilltoppers rallied to earn a 23-25, 25-19, 25-22 victory. Glenbard West moved to 10-0 with the win, while Glenbard East dropped to 12-1. (Photo by Chris Fox)

## Rams battle to a second-place finish in Springfest Invitational

BY CHRIS FOX

Glenbard East's boys volleyball team won the first 12 matches of its 2026 season before suffering its first loss on Saturday afternoon. The Rams fell to 12-1 after dropping a three-game battle to Glenbard West in the championship match of Glenbard East's 16-team Springfest Invitational.

The Rams, who entered Saturday's event with an 8-0 record, began the invitational with a 25-17, 25-14 win over Romeoville. Glenbard East then beat Downers Grove South 25-21, 25-16. The Rams completed pool play with a 25-20, 25-22 victory over Conant. After going undefeated in its four-team pool, Glenbard East advanced to the invitational's semifinal round.

After winning three morning matches in pool play, the Rams beat Lake Park 25-23, 25-19 in a semifinal battle on Saturday afternoon. Glenbard East then faced Glenbard West in a championship match between two teams with unblemished regular-season records. The Rams won the first game of the championship showdown, but the Hilltoppers rallied to earn a 23-25, 25-19, 25-22 win.

"We battled, they battled. It was a heck of a match," said Glenbard East coach Bradley Cardott after the loss to Glenbard West. "We gave ourselves a chance. That's all you can ask for."

Glenbard West raised its overall season record to 10-0 after posting five straight wins and winning the Springfest title on Saturday in Lombard.

Two Rams—seniors Jake Hayes and Gabe Polyak—were named to the 2026 Springfest All-Tournament Team.

Hayes provided 41 digs, eight aces and five assists during the Rams' five matches at Saturday's invitational. Polyak bashed 42 kills and added 19 digs, six blocks and two assists during the event. Senior Loyce Mojica contributed 54 assists, 14 digs and four aces for Glenbard East. Senior Charlie Cooper handed out 57 assists and made nine digs for the Rams during Saturday's five matches, while senior Nate Lynch piled up 25 kills, 12 blocks and 10 digs. Glenbard East sophomore Max Waldschmidt pounded 22 kills and supplied seven blocks and two digs. Senior Jackson Yates provided 14 kills, six blocks and three digs. Senior Michael Hoffmann hit nine kills and made 19 blocks and six digs in the invitational. Sophomore Cole Smith hit eight

kills, served six aces and made 18 digs for the Rams. Senior Angel Sanchez contributed four kills, four digs and three blocks for Glenbard East during Saturday's action.

Glenbard East jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the decisive third game of Saturday's championship match. The Hilltoppers then scored three straight points to cut the Rams' lead to 6-3. Glenbard East won seven of the next nine points to take a 13-5 lead, but Glenbard West delivered an 11-2 run to take a 16-15 lead. The Rams scored the next point to even the third game at 16-16. The Hilltoppers won the next two points to build an 18-16 lead. Glenbard West maintained its lead for the rest of the match. The Hilltoppers' lead grew to 24-19 before the Rams fended off three match points. Glenbard West won the next point to close out its victory.

Glenbard East produced a strong comeback of its own in the first game of its semifinal match against Lake Park. The Lancers led the Rams 21-15 in the opening game. Glenbard East won the next three points to cut Lake Park's lead to 21-18. After the Lancers won the next point to take a 22-18 lead, the Rams won six straight points to grab a 24-22 advantage. After Lake Park won the next point, Glenbard East captured the following point to claim the opening game.

The Rams opened their Upstate Eight Conference East Division season with a 25-23, 25-23 victory at Glenbard South on April 7. Polyak had eight kills, seven digs, three assists and two aces in the win over the Raiders in Glen Ellyn. Lynch connected for seven kills, while Waldschmidt and Yates pounded six kills each. Mojica handed out 13 assists and made seven digs. Cooper had seven assists and four digs, while Hayes made 10 digs and added five assists.

Glenbard East raised its record to 8-0 following its 27-25, 25-19 non-division win at Naperville North on April 9. Polyak drilled 14 kills in the Rams' win over the Huskies. Waldschmidt added six kills, while Lynch bashed five kills. Sanchez provided three kills. Cooper distributed 12 assists in the victory in Naperville, while Mojica delivered 11 assists. Hayes and Smith made six digs each.

The Rams' season resumes today—Thursday, April 16—with a non-division home match against St. Francis.

## Rams pull away from Warriors, pick up first win of '26 season

Glenbard East's girls soccer team earned its first win of the season when it defeated Willowbrook 5-0 on Friday evening in Villa Park.

The Rams improved to 1-3-1 with Friday's victory over their area rival. Willowbrook dropped to 3-4 with the loss.

Junior Izel Duenas gave Glenbard East a 1-0 lead when she scored a goal with about 18 minutes left in the first half. The Rams maintained that 1-0 lead at halftime.

Junior Sam Anderson scored two goals for Glenbard East during the first seven minutes of the second half. Anderson's first goal pushed the Rams' lead to 2-0 with about 37 minutes left in the match. Her next goal extended Glenbard East's lead to 3-0 with 33:08 to play.

Junior Teagan Murphy delivered the Rams' fourth goal of the match with about 10 min-



Glenbard East senior Nora Opila (No. 9) and Willowbrook senior Charlotte Lowe (No. 4) are pictured during Friday's girls soccer match in Villa Park. Opila scored the Rams' final goal in their 5-0 win over the Warriors. (Photo by Chris Fox)

See SOCCER, Page 13

## Warriors roll to seventh straight win



Willowbrook's baseball team ran its winning streak to seven games by posting four straight wins last week to raise its overall season record to 8-4.

The Warriors, who opened their season with a 1-4 record by winning their first game and losing four straight contests, posted three straight wins (from March 30 to April 1) on their spring break trip to Tennessee to move their record to 4-4. Willowbrook continued its winning streak by opening its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a sweep of last week's three-game series against Leyden.

The Warriors opened their conference series against the Eagles with a 9-1 win in Villa Park on April 6. One day later, Willowbrook earned a 14-2 five-inning win at Leyden. The Warriors completed their three-game sweep of the Eagles with a 10-1 win in Villa Park on April 9.

Willowbrook moved to 8-4 following Saturday's 13-2 five-inning win over Glenbard West in a non-conference game in Villa Park.

Senior Jory Crocker of the Warriors went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs in the series opener against Leyden. Junior Ben Swanson went 3-for-5, scored three runs and drove in one run. Junior Alex Rodriguez went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs. Senior Jake Bonino went 2-for-5 with one RBI.

Senior Noah Edison pitched a complete game and earned the victory in Willowbrook's first game against Leyden. Edison allowed one run, five hits and two walks in seven innings. He recorded six strikeouts.

Senior Jacob Bylsma went 3-for-4 and drove in six runs in the Warriors' 14-2 win at Leyden on April 7. Crocker went 1-for-3 with four runs batted in. He hit a three-run homer in the top of the first inning to give Willowbrook a 3-0 lead.

Junior Mikey Garner recorded nine strikeouts for the Warriors in the second game of their conference series against Leyden. Garner allowed one earned run, two hits and four walks in five innings.

Rodriguez went 3-for-3 and drove in two

Jory Crocker bats during the 13-2 victory over Glenbard West. Crocker delivered a two-run single in the bottom of the fourth. The Warriors ran their winning streak to seven games and improved to 8-4. (Photo by Chris Fox)

See BASEBALL, Page 13

## Bolda strikes out 15 as Rams move to 6-0

Glenbard East's softball team improved to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the Upstate Eight Conference East Division following last week's 4-1 home win over Glenbard South. Junior pitcher Claire Bolda piled up 15 strikeouts and didn't allow any walks in seven innings in the circle to lead the Rams to their April 9 victory over the Raiders. Bolda allowed one run and four hits in her winning performance.

Glenbard East scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning of its division game against the Raiders. Senior Keira Nelson delivered a two-run single in that inning. Junior Lilly Carver hit a solo homer for the Rams in the bottom of the second inning to give Glenbard East a 4-0 lead. The Raiders scored their only run of the game in the top of the fourth inning.

Two days before beating Glenbard South, the Rams opened their division season with a 15-0 win at Elmwood Park. Bolda pitched four shutout innings and earned the win in Glenbard East's April 7 victory over the Tigers. She recorded seven strikeouts while allowing one hit and no walks. Nelson pitched the final three innings for the Rams. She gave up one hit and one walk while striking out three batters.

Carver went 2-for-5 with a home run and



Junior Claire Bolda recorded 15 Ks with no walks to lead the Rams past Glenbard South. (Photo by Chris Fox)

drove in two runs in Glenbard East's win at Elmwood Park. Junior Althea Fitzgerald went 3-for-5 with two RBIs. Sophomore Lorelai May went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs.

The Rams' schedule this week includes division games against Riverside Brookfield, Ridgewood and West Chicago, along with Saturday's non-division game at Batavia.

## Rams defeat Warriors



Glenbard East's boys tennis team beat Willowbrook 6-1 in last week's dual meet in Lombard. Glenbard East's Finn Talbot is pictured during his 6-1, 6-1 win over Willowbrook's Brogan Byrne in the No. 1 singles match. Senior Arnav Mehta of the Rams posted a 6-0, 6-0 win in the No. 2 singles contest. Joey Burkett of Glenbard East prevailed 6-1, 6-3 in the No. 3 singles contest. The Rams' No. 1 doubles duo of Evan Fine and Dean Pittcavong earned a 6-0, 6-1 win. Glenbard East's tandem of Alek Jovanovic and Gabriel Milian delivered a 6-2, 6-4 triumph in the No. 2 doubles match. Aidan Walsh and Giuseppe Maltese of Glenbard East edged Willowbrook's Ryan Pletsch and Haruki Yamada in the No. 3 doubles contest, and Willowbrook's Nathan Epple and Nikko Evans earned a 6-1, 6-2 win in No. 4 doubles. (Photo by Chris Fox)

## Warriors sweep Glenbard West

Willowbrook's Adrianna Weaser (pictured) pitched a complete game during Saturday's 5-1 victory over Glenbard West. Weaser allowed one run, two hits and two walks in seven innings to open a doubleheader. Natalie Quigley went 2-for-3 and drove in three runs in Saturday's first game and went 3-for-5 and drove in two runs in the second game—a 15-6 Willowbrook victory. Weaser went 2-for-5 with four RBIs in Saturday's second game. Senior Marli Smrz went 2-for-3, scored four runs and drove in one run. Freshman Tessa Burritt went 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Senior Kyleigh Miazga pitched five innings and earned the victory for Willowbrook in Saturday's second game. The Warriors are scheduled to open their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's games against Leyden and Addison Trail. (Photo by Chris Fox)



## Broncos win home opener

The Montini Catholic softball team raised its 2026 record to 10-4 following last week's 7-1 victory over Geneva in Lombard. Playing in their first home game of the season, the Broncos built a 7-0 lead in the April 8 game. The Vikings scored their only run of the game on a solo home run in the top of the seventh inning. Sophomore pitcher Cameron Fox (pictured) fired a complete game for Montini. She recorded 15 strikeouts while allowing one run, three hits and one walk. Junior Alex Kalins of the Broncos went 2-for-3 and drove in one run in the victory. Freshman Brooke Willis also went 2-for-3 with one RBI. Junior Cedona Barrett went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs. (Photo by Chris Fox)



## • Soccer (From page 12)

utes to play. Senior Nora Opila scored Glenbard East's final goal of the contest with under two minutes remaining.

Three days before facing Willowbrook, the Rams opened their Upstate Eight Conference East Division season with a scoreless tie against Glenbard South in Glen Ellyn. After 80 minutes of play, the two teams battled in a shootout for the purpose of determining division standings. The Raiders prevailed in the shootout. The Rams converted only one of five penalty kicks in the April 7 match. Glenbard South made two of its four penalty-kick attempts.

Glenbard East's overall record dropped to 1-4-1 following Saturday's 5-0 loss to Andrew in a match that was part of Plainfield East's tournament. Saturday's contest took place at Plainfield East. The Rams, who are helping to host that event, are playing three home matches this week that are part of the tournament.

Willowbrook opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a 1-0 overtime loss to Downers Grove South in Villa Park on April 7. After 80 minutes of scoreless



Glenbard East's Izel Duenas (11) celebrates with Mia Gomez after scoring against Willowbrook. Duenas gave the Rams a 1-0 lead with the goal. (Photo by Chris Fox)

soccer, the two teams prepared to play two 10-minute sudden-victory overtime periods. Downers Grove South ended the match by scoring a goal about 90 seconds into the opening overtime period.

Willowbrook coach Dwayne Cruz praised the play of junior goalkeeper Olivia Daly in the Warriors' conference opener against the Mustangs.

"Olivia was totally on against Downers Grove South," said Cruz. "She was outstanding in that match."

Cruz, who is in his first year as the Warriors' head coach, said Willowbrook's

young lineup, which includes multiple freshmen and sophomore starters, struggled in the second half of Friday's match against Glenbard East.

"I think we got a little stressed in the second half," said Cruz. "You've got to learn to handle the stress of playing in a rivalry match like this."

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes non-conference matches against York and Maine South. The Warriors will play their next conference contest on April 21, when they will travel to Hinsdale South.

## • Baseball (From page 12)

runs in the series finale against the Eagles. Senior Alek Ramey went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs.

Senior Bobby Biggs pitched six innings and earned the victory for the Warriors in their April 9 home win. Biggs allowed one earned run, four hits and three walks. He struck out five batters. Crocker pitched a scoreless seventh inning and struck out two batters.

Bonino went 2-for-3 and drove in three runs in Saturday's win over the Hilltoppers. Swan-

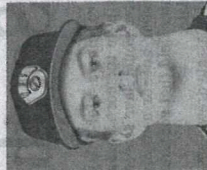
son went 2-for-4, scored three runs and drove in two runs. Senior Alex Dew went 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

Rodriguez pitched the first three innings for the Warriors in their game against Glenbard West. He allowed one earned run and didn't give up any hits. He issued five walks and recorded five strikeouts. Bylsma pitched the last two innings and allowed one earned run, two hits and one walk. He struck out one batter.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Hinsdale South, along with a non-conference game against Proviso West this Saturday, April 18.

# Suburban Life

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



### BOBBY BIGGS

Willowbrook, senior, baseball

Biggs pitched a complete-game shutout with 10 strikeouts with just four hits allowed, throwing 68 of 93 pitched for strikes, as Willowbrook completed a sweep of Hinsdale South with its 10th straight win.

He was voted the Athlete of the Week in an online vote. Other nominees were Riverside-Brookfield softball's Mia Melendez, Downers Grove North Track and field's Maya Nicholson and Wheaton North volleyball's Aiden Syswerda.

Here is his Q&A with Sports Editor Joshua Weige:

**You guys are on now a 13-game win streak—how have you been able to maintain that consistency? Does the team have any superstitions going to continue it?**

**Biggs:** Honestly as a team we're just trying to win the day. Our coaches have engrained that in us. As long as we win the day and get better every day while playing 100% we will win.

Every game we have little sayings like "dominos" for a 3-2 count and one out when battling where we rub our hats, take them off one by one and put them back on one by one when the pitcher is set. Along with "2's" with a 2-2 count and two outs when batting. Little things like this keep the dugout engaged and it's become a ritual that we do so the baseball gods can help us.

**You had a great start the other day. What was working for you?**

**Biggs:** During my start I just wanted to get ahead of hitters with the fastball early on. When talking in the dugout with my pitching coach we figured things out and planned on attacking every inning. Getting ahead in the count allowed me to show curveballs later in the game. I trust so much in the coaching staff and the defense where I can then pitch to contact and record outs without feeling stressed. I give props to the pitching staff behind me as well. I know that if I give my team a chance to win the fellow pitchers behind me can come in and slam the door.

**How would you describe your pitch style and repertoire?**

**Biggs:** I have three pitch mix with a change up. I just strive to throw my pitch I need to in any count.

**So does the team have a favorite restaurant after a big win and if so what's your go to order?**

**Biggs:** Lately the guys have been going to Los Burritos after wins. My go to is the baby burrito.

**How motivated is the team to send [retiring] coach [Vic] Wisner out with a conference and/or postseason championship?**

**Biggs:** The guys and I have been wanting to give not only Coach Wisner a conference championship but a regional championship for years. It would mean the world to us and him to go out strong and really show what Willowbrook baseball is all about. Every year it's a grind to be the best we can be. This year we want to give coach some hardware to take with him when he retires. It means more to us than words can describe.

**Do you have a favorite MLB team?**

**Biggs:** My favorite team has been the Washington Nationals all my life. And my favorite player has to be Max Scherzer.

**What's your post high school plans if you know them?**

**Biggs:** My post high school plans are to attend Wartburg College in Waverly Iowa where I will be playing baseball for the next four years. I hope to get a degree in Physical education/Coaching where I can then give back to kids at the high school level just like my coaches did for me.

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30 DOLLAR GENERAL